

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An applicator (1) for use as a mascara brush, comprising: a stem; and a plurality of bristles (2) which are held between two intertwisted wire sections, with the bristles (2) passing through a helical reinforcing element (7), wherein the reinforcing element (7) is formed by two individual flights of helix each of the flights having a first end engaged to each other at a first end of the reinforcing element and a free second end at the second end of the reinforcing element, and further wherein said second end of the reinforcing element is connected to said stem.

2. (Previously presented) The applicator (1) according to claim 1, wherein threads of the two individual flights are asymmetrical such that a pitch of a first section of the thread is greater than that of a second section, with a free interstice for the bristles (2) to pass through alternatively having a smaller distance B and a greater distance C.

3. (Previously presented) The applicator (1) according to claim 1, wherein the free second ends (15) of the two individual flights of helix are arranged in either a specific annular gap (16) or a recess (5) which accommodates free ends of intertisted wires of the original brush and the free second ends (15) of the two individual flights.

4. (Previously presented) The applicator (1) according to claim 1, wherein the first ends of the two individual flights of helix are engaged together by a rounded portion.

5. (Previously presented) The applicator (1) according to claim 4, wherein the two individual flights of helix and the rounded portion are formed as a unit.